

REMARKS

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10, 11 and 18 is acknowledged and appreciated. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-9, 12-17 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Watanabe et al.. This rejection is respectfully traversed because Watanabe et al. is not prior art to the present application. That is, the filing date of Watanabe et al. is July 3, 2003 (and the corresponding priority documents of Watanabe et al. appear to be published thereafter), whereas the effective filing date of the present application is March 27, 2003 based on the priority document of the present application. In order to perfect Applicants' claim to foreign priority, enclosed is a certified English translation of the foreign priority document for the present application (i.e., JP 2003-089279). Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn

CONCLUSION

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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